CLAIMS

1. An engine piston having a crown comprising:

an outer crown surface adapted for exposure to engine combustion temperatures;

an undercrown adapted for exposure to crankcase fluids;

a plurality of cooling pins extending from the undercrown for contact with crankcase fluids to assist in cooling the piston crown.

2. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the pins are conical.

3. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the pins are preformed and cast into the piston.

4. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the pins are cast with the piston.

5. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the pins have a length of about 2-5 mm and diameter of about 1-2 mm.

6. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the piston is formed of steel.

7. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the piston is formed of aluminum alloy.

8. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the piston is formed of ceramic.

9. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the piston is formed of titanium alloy.

10. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the piston includes a ring belt with grooves for receiving piston rings.

11. A piston as in claim 10 wherein cooling pins also extend from the ring belt.

12. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the piston includes a skirt for absorbing thrust forces on the pistons.

13. A piston as in claim 1 wherein the piston includes a pin boss for receiving a wrist pin.

14. A piston as in claim 13 wherein cooling pins also extend from the pin boss.